

Curriculum Committee
Minutes
October 28, 2013

Members Present: Rich Anderson-Connolly, Bill Beardsley, Luc Boisvert, Gwynne Brown, Jane Carlin (Library Director), Jim Evans, Lisa Ferrari (Associate Dean), Lisa Johnson (Chair), Alan Krause, Paul Loeb, Janet Marcavage, Brett Rogers, Mike Spivey, Lisa Tucker (student), Linda Williams

1. Call to Order :

The meeting was called to order by its chair at 4:03

2. Remarks from the Chair:

The Chair made no remarks.

3. Minutes of October 14, 2013:

M/S/P: Approve the minutes of 9/9/2013 as corrected.

4. Working Group Reports:

Group 1: Freeman reported that the group recommends approval of course under the Connections Rubric.

M/S/P that the Committee approve CONN 420 "The American Progressive Ideal" taught by Professors Kessel and MacBain as a connections course.

Groups 2 , 3 and 5 reported that they are continuing to work on their assigned tasks.

Group 4: Loeb reported that the group recommends approval of 3 SSI-2 seminars

M/S/P that the Committee approve

SSI2 154, "The Anthropology of Food and Eating," Andrew Gardner, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

SSI2 162, "Mary and 'Aisha: Feminism and Religion," Greta Austin, Department of Religion

SSI2 153, "Scientific Controversies," Amy Fisher, STS Program

5. Consideration of the Question #3 of the Curriculum Review Guidelines

Brown introduced a discussion of the requirement that Departments explain any major requirements exceeding nine units.

M/S that the Committee replace the sentence "If your Department major requirements exceed nine units in the major field, please explain why any extra units are required" in the "Curriculum Review Document" with the sentence " If the number of units required for the major has changed, please explain this change."

Discussion first focused on the number of Departments whose major requirements are greater than nine and on the current Committee's practice of not deeply questioning departmental explanations. Discussion soon shifted to the nature of a liberal arts education, the percentage of courses that should be concentrated in one specialized field of study and the role of the Committee in ensuring a balance between major, core and elective courses. Some suggested that if the Committee intends to take a stricter line in interpreting departmental justifications of additional major courses this should first be discussed in a larger faculty setting. Others pointed out that this policy has been in place since the 80's at least and has been taken seriously by past committees.

The motion was withdrawn.

6. Discussion of Question #6 of the Curriculum Review Guidelines

Discussion centered on the role of the Committee in monitoring diversity efforts and focused on specific instances where there was confusion on the part of departments about the nature of the requirement and the specific form of this question. Rogers suggested that a better way to phrase the question might be to explicitly tie it to University statements concerning diversity, as these provide needed clarification to such things as the operational meaning of "diversity." He will draft a question based on the University's strategic planning surrounding diversity for consideration at the next meeting.

7. M/S/P: To adjourn at 4:55

8. The Committee will reconvene at 4:00 pm on November 11.

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Beardsley